

US VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Trump's health raises stakes as Kamala Harris, Mike Pence prepare for crucial face-off
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Your Right to Know

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"Nation would be freed from the social disorder of rape if the verdict was executed expeditiously after completing the trial within 3 months."

JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"Let us join hands and fight against this moral plague in our country and protect our women and children so they can dream and live their lives without fear."

ALL-ROUNDER SHAKIB AL HASAN ON A FACEBOOK POST



"It is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the CCP's exploitation, corruption and coercion."

MIKE POMPEO SEEKS SUPPORT AGAINST CHINA PAGE 6

NOAKHALI GANG-RAPE VICTIM

Delwar raped her several times before

Did it at gunpoint; her protests, pleas only drew threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The survivor of the gang-rape in Noakhali was previously raped multiple times at gunpoint by prime accused Delwar Hossain, the National Human Rights Commission found after visiting the woman yesterday.

"Whenever the woman protested or refused, she was threatened with gang-rape by his whole team of 'Delwar Bahini'," said Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir, the director of investigation at NHRC, while briefing journalists at the Noakhali Chief Judicial Magistrate Court's auditorium in the afternoon.

"One and a half years ago Delwar first entered her house and threatened her with weapons. He proceeded to rape her, and when she screamed, he threatened to gang-rape and murder her," he said.

"A few days later the woman was taken out to a remote lake on a boat by Delwar and his colleague Kalam. They both tried to rape her, and she fell to Kalam's feet for mercy. He let her go, but Delwar proceeded to rape her inside the boat. Since then Delwar has attempted to rape her several times, and failed, leading him to become



enraged," said Kabir.

The Noakhali district woman and children affairs' department's deputy director Kamrun Nahar was present during the interview of the survivor.

The video of the incident that took place on September 2 was released on social media on Sunday, triggering outrage.

At one point in the video that went viral, one of the men torturing the survivor is heard accusing her of "distributing her body" while the woman fervently denied the allegation. The new findings by NHRC puts this exchange into context by showing that the men not only sexually abused her

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With the slogan "I demand capital punishment of rapist" painted on his chest, Tutul, a painter from the capital's Dolaipar area, holds the national flag in his hand while staging a protest in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The recent rape incident in Noakhali outraged people across the country.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Four killed in clashes in Rohingya camp

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed in sporadic clashes that broke out between two groups of Rohingyas in Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar yesterday evening.

Chases, counter-chases, and gunfights took place between the two factions in Block-C of the Rohingya camp in Kutupalong, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Sources in the camp say the clashes stemmed from a long-standing feud between the two groups.

At one stage, the clashes spread to three to four other camps in the area and continued as of filing of this report around 9:15 last night.

Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Shamsuddoza told The Daily Star that at least four people were killed in the clashes.

Students, labourers worst-affected

Govt employees, teachers least-hit: BBS

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Students, rickshaw-pullers and labourers faced the worst financial hardship during pandemic whereas government employees and teachers were least impacted by it, reported Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

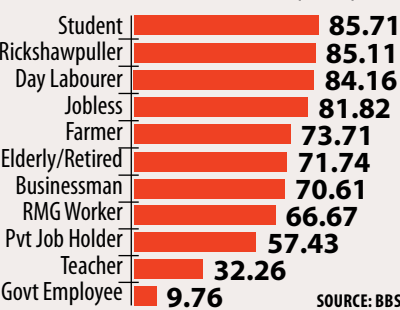
Using random sampling method, BBS conducted a rapid phone panel survey on 2,040 mobile users of four mobile operators between September 13 and 19.

According to the report, 85.71 percent students, 85.11 rickshaw-pullers and van-pullers, and 84.16 percent labourers had faced financial hardship during the pandemic.

Besides, 9.76 percent government employees, 32.26 percent teachers and 57.43 percent private job holders had to experience financial difficulties.

Around 46.22 percent people who were going through financial hardship used their previous savings for survival whereas 43.11 sought assistance from family members, the report added.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FACED DURING PANDEMIC (IN %)



SOURCE: BBS

The survey also found out that unemployment rate in the country rose to 23 percent in July and went down to around 4 percent in September as the Covid-19 situation improved.

The report -- Covid-19 Bangladesh: Perception Study on Impact on Livelihood -- was presented in the Ecne meeting yesterday.

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Timely stimulus packages helped rebound: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the national economy made a turnaround with its desired pace due to the government's timely decision to give stimulus packages to various sectors and groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have taken the step at the right time...we didn't think about how much money we have or what we have, we just thought about keeping our economy moving," she said.

The premier was speaking at the weekly Ecne meeting held at NEC auditorium in the capital. She joined the meeting virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the idea behind giving the packages to different industrial sectors, including agriculture, SMEs, heavy industries and RMG, and other groups like the poor, day-labourers and distressed people during the pandemic period was to keep the wheels of the economy turning.

"If we want to keep the wheels of the economy turning, we have to provide money to these sectors and groups...we have to transfer money to the hands of the

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SAUDI-BOUND WORKERS

Biman, Saudia cannot take all

Passengers who came by other airlines facing trouble

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

Many migrant workers are still uncertain about rejoining work in Saudi Arabia anytime soon as several foreign airlines are yet to resume flights to the kingdom.

Only Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudia, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, are operating direct flights to the kingdom.

Scores of desperate workers, who had returned home on vacation by other airlines, thronged the offices of Biman and Saudia in the capital over the last few days for tickets. But they couldn't get any as the two airlines are only reissuing tickets to those who already had return tickets.

These low-paid migrant workers now fear losing jobs if they fail to reach their workplaces soon.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic halted flights to Saudi Arabia, Biman and Saudia carried about 1.5 lakh passengers and several other airlines around 1.5 lakh from Bangladesh to the kingdom annually, said sources in the sector.

Of these airlines, Biman is now operating nine flights and Saudia eight flights a week. Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air and Etihad are yet to resume flights from Dhaka, said officials at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Qatar Airways, Air Arabia, and Fly Dubai resumed flights, but they are not carrying any transit passengers to the kingdom, they mentioned.

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47 Vietnam returnees get out of jail

UNB, Gazipur

Forty-seven Bangladeshi workers, who were sent to jail after returning from Vietnam, were released from Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur yesterday following the court's directive.

The authorities concerned of the Kashimpur Central Jail freed them after getting release order from the court.

Ratna Roy, jail superintendent of Kashimpur Central Jail-1 unit, said 19 Vietnam returnees were released in the afternoon.

The release order reached the jail and after scrutiny, the authorities concerned freed the returnees.

Besides, Abu Sayem, jailer of Kashimpur Central Jail-2, said 27 Vietnam returnees among 32 walked of jail in the afternoon.

Shafiqul Islam Khan, senior jail superintendent of Kashimpur High Security Central Jail, said a Vietnam returnee was freed around noon.

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Liquid waste from Savar Tannery Industrial Estate is being released into the Dhaleshwari river, causing pollution of the water body and nearby areas. Such a poor waste management system of the tannery estate is putting public health in jeopardy.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Keepsakes are all she has

A year on, Buet student Abrar's mother waits for justice

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The books he used to read, the prizes he won, and the clothes he wore -- all are now stowed gracefully in a showcase, just the way Abrar Fahad used to keep them in his dormitory in Buet.

A pair of blue sneakers that still looks new sits on the middle row. Just a row above lies his other belongings, starting from his wristwatch, spectacles, pen, prayer cap, tasbeeh, calculator, nail clipper to body lotion, toothbrush and hair oil.

Identity cards of the university and his college rest in another row along with a yellow envelope which reads "Welcome to EEE Family, Buet".

His mother, Rokeya Begum, kept all these items as keepsakes in their house in Kushtia. Abrar died an agonising death after being beaten up brutally by some Chhatra League men at Buet's Sher-e-Bangla hall in the early hours of October 7 last year.

Rokeya looks at these memories and speaks to herself in delirium.

"Everything in the showcase reminds me of my son. I look at the belongings as these are all I have left now," a sobbing Rokeya told The Daily Star over phone on Sunday.

"Since his college life at Notre Dame College in Dhaka, he used to keep everything -- his bed, clothes, table -- in Arambagh hostel very neat and clean. I am trying to keep

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Abrar Fahad